GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:167
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Publication of SECC Data
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set any target and time-frame for publication of Socio- Economic and Caste Census(SECC) data and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for delay if any;

(b) whether the Government faced any difficulty in collating the data and rectifying errors detected in SECC and if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether the list of beneficiaries under various programmes schemes is likely to shrink in the aftermath of SECC and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review the criteria laid down for census for better targeting of Government schemes and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the delivery mechanism of Government schemes and also socio-economic condition of people living in the rural areas.

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement Referred to in Reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 167 for answer on 10th December, 2015.

(a) & (b): Government initiated the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) in June 2011 under the Ministry of Rural Development as a Nodal Ministry. The Caste census, Urban census and Rural BPL census come within the administrative jurisdiction of Registrar General of India (RGI), Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) and Ministry of Rural Development respectively. The SECC was conducted by the State/UT Governments with the financial and technical support of the Ministry. At each stage of the enumeration of data there was an opportunity for transparency and grievance redressal. Reasons for delay, inter alia, include inadequate preparation in field, introduction of verification module and increased timelines in settling households' claims and objections. Out of 24.45 crore households enumerated in the country, 1.32 Crore households raised Claims & Objections. The same have been rectified by the appropriate designated authority of the state governments.

(c) & (d): Under SECC, rural households are classified using three step method - automatic exclusion on the basis of fourteen parameters, automatic inclusion on the basis of five parameters and grading of household deprivation on the basis of seven criteria. The SECC data address the multi dimensionality of poverty and provides a unique opportunity for a convergent, evidence based planning. The SECC data will help in making evidence based selection, prioritization and targeting of beneficiaries under different programmes of the government.

(e): In order to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the rural development programmes at the grassroots level, the Ministry has evolved a comprehensive multi-level and multi-tool system of Monitoring and Evaluation. The mechanism adopted by the ministry for Monitoring and Evaluation includes Periodic Progress Reports/ Returns (On-line and Off-line); Meeting of Performance Review Committee (PRC); Review by Hon'ble Minister, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee (V&MC), National Level Monitors; Visits of Area Officers, Impact Assessment Studies etc. This comprehensive system of Monitoring and Evaluation ensures that the programme benefits reach the rural poor in full measure. The rural development programmes implemented by the Department contribute significantly towards the improvement of socio-economic condition of the rural people.